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CONSUMPTION OF COTTON IN THE COTTON STATES.

BY

J. L. WATKINS.

Cotton Expert, Bureau of Statistics.

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CONTENTS.

	Page.
Beginning of manufacture of cotton.....	463
Early domestic manufacture of cotton.....	463
Household manufactures in 1810.....	464
Effect of the embargo on domestic manufactures.....	464
Manufacturing in the South discouraged.....	465
Cotton manufacturing establishments, 1800-1820.....	465
The cotton industry from 1830 to 1860.....	466
The consumption of cotton in South Carolina.....	466
The consumption of cotton in North Carolina.....	468
The consumption of cotton in Georgia.....	470
The consumption of cotton in Alabama.....	472
The consumption of cotton in Tennessee.....	473
The consumption of cotton in Virginia.....	474
Consumption of cotton in several cotton States.....	475
The cotton industry of the past twenty years.....	476

ILLUSTRATIONS.

PLATES.

PLATE LIX. Graniteville cotton factory, near Aiken, S. C., founded by William Gregg, esq., 1846.....	466
LX. Fig. 1.—Alamance cotton mill, Alamance County, N. C., founded by Edwin M. Holt in 1837. Fig. 2.—Leaksville cotton mill, on Dan River, Spray, N. C., built in 1839.....	468
LXI. Fig. 1.—Cedar Falls cotton mill, Randolph County, N. C., built in 1848. Fig. 2.—High Shoals cotton mill, on Apalachee River, Oconee County, Ga., as it appeared in 1844, built by Jacob Klutts.....	468
LXIa. Fig. 1.—Tallassee Falls cotton mill, as it appeared in 1854 (used as an armory during the civil war). Fig. 2.—The textile building of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Mississippi.....	472

TEXT FIGURE.

FIG. 49. "Bolton Factory," the first cotton mill in Georgia, built on Upton Creek, Wilkes County, in 1811.....	471
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CONSUMPTION OF COTTON IN THE COTTON STATES.

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BEGINNING OF MANUFACTURE OF COTTON.

The South began the manufacture of cotton at a very early date, and, although Beverly, Mass., is credited with the distinction of building the first cotton mill in the United States (1787), the historical records of South Carolina show that during the same year a small mill was erected on James Island, near Charleston. Three years later (1790) a mill was put in operation near Statesburg, S. C., equipped with "ginning, carding, and other machines, driven by water, and also spinning machines with 84 spindles each, with every necessary article for manufacturing cotton."^a

EARLY DOMESTIC MANUFACTURE OF COTTON.

Prior to 1787 the domestic manufacture of cotton, stimulated by the results of the Revolution, was extensively carried on among the Southern planters. Thomas Jefferson, in a letter to M. De Warville in 1786, says: "The four southernmost States make a great deal of cotton. Their poor are almost entirely clothed in it in winter and summer."^b

There are no trustworthy statistics showing the domestic consumption of cotton in the Southern States during the first half of the past century, but it is quite certain that practically the entire slave population, as well as the poorer class of whites, continued, as during the period alluded to by Mr. Jefferson, to be clothed in homespun cotton. Even at the beginning of the civil war almost every well-regulated plantation in the South had its equipment of spindles and cards and looms. The same may be said of the homes of the poorer white people of those days. Just how much cotton was consumed in this manner is unknown. In 1800 the production of cotton in the United States was estimated at 35,000,000 pounds, of which 17,800,000 were exported. The quantity manufactured in the whole country exceeded 8,000,000 pounds, or, say, 35,555 bales (225 pounds each), only about "500 of which were consumed in regular establishments."^c As the "regular

^a Bishop's History of American Manufactures.

^b Jefferson's Writings, edited by H. A. Washington.

^c Gallatin's Report on American Manufactures, April, 1810.

establishments" alluded to were located in the New England States, about 7,887,000 pounds must have been consumed in the domestic manufactures of the Southern States.

HOUSEHOLD MANUFACTURES IN 1810.

In regard to household manufactures in 1810, Gallatin says that by far the greater part of the cotton, flax, and woolen goods was manufactured in private families, mostly for their own use and partly for sale. "The articles made were principally coarse cloth, flannel, cotton stuffs and stripes of every description, linen, and mixtures of wool with flax and cotton. Information received from every State showed an extraordinary increase during the last two years, and rendered it probable that about two-thirds of the clothing, including hosiery, house and table linen, worn and used by the inhabitants of the United States outside of the cities, was the product of family manufactures." In the lower counties of Virginia, throughout North Carolina, and in the upper counties of South Carolina and Georgia, almost the whole summer clothing of all classes was of household manufacture, and the slaves were entirely clothed in that manner. In illustration of the common use of homespun at this period it is stated that of 1,500 persons attending a militia review in North Carolina, less than 40 wore anything but homespun.^a Statistics also show that in 1810 the manufactured products of Virginia, the Carolinas, and Georgia exceeded in quantity and value those of all the New England States. Georgia, with a white population of 145,414 persons, manufactured in 1810 more yards of various cloths and stuffs than Rhode Island with all of its manufacturing establishments. In Virginia, the cotton goods of household manufacture amounted to 3,007,255 yards; in North Carolina, to 7,376,154 (blended cloths); in South Carolina, to 3,083,188; in Georgia, to 3,688,534; in Tennessee, to 1,790,514; in Mississippi, to 342,472; and in Louisiana to 133,180. In addition to this, 1,272,322 yards of mixed cotton goods were manufactured in Virginia and 108,627 yards in South Carolina. In Georgia 3,148 yards of cotton goods were manufactured in cotton mills.^b

EFFECT OF THE EMBARGO ON DOMESTIC MANUFACTURES.

The embargo laid upon foreign commerce during Jefferson's and Madison's Administrations, and which resulted in such a remarkable development of the cotton industry in the New England States, also had a stimulating effect in the South. The South Carolina Homespun Company, with a capital of \$30,000, was organized at Charleston (1808) to promote the manufacture of common domestic fabrics, and 4,000 people attended the laying of the corner stone of "the first edifice on

^a Bishop's History of American Manufactures.

^b Digest of Manufactures, Report of Secretary of Treasury to Senate, January, 1814.

a large scale, in that part of the Union, devoted to domestic manufacture."^a Two years later the Union Manufacturing Company, of Maryland, incorporated with a capital of \$1,000,000, erected two cotton mills, run by water power, on the Patuxent River, 10 miles from Baltimore, and adjoining the mills owned by the Ellicotts. The year following (1811) the Washington Manufacturing Company, with \$100,000 capital, built a water-power mill 5 miles from Baltimore, at Jones Falls. The same year (1811) a cotton mill was built on Upton Creek, in Wilkes County, Ga.

MANUFACTURING IN THE SOUTH DISCOURAGED.

But in spite of the occasional building of a cotton mill, manufacturing was not encouraged by many of the leading citizens of the South. Early in his career Mr. Jefferson had discouraged it, believing that the people would be happier, more virtuous, and prosperous in the pursuit of agriculture than they could be with the vices and evils of manufacturing towns in their midst.^b The tariff laws then in force intensified the opposition to this branch of industry, and John Randolph, in a speech in the House of Representatives (April, 1824), declared that if there was no other obstacle the climate was against it; and, that if we were to build up manufactures on the English system we should have yellow fever "not in August merely, but from June to January, and from January to June." When the foundation of a cotton mill was laid at Moore's Mill, near Athens, Ga., in 1827, the editor of the local paper, in noting this important event, says:

A sense of safety and independence combined, doubtless, with an expectation of profit has urged gentlemen to an undertaking against which their political convictions are at war. And we are authorized to state that these sentiments have by no means undergone a change; that their project is certainly not to give countenance to a system which they have always denounced, but it is to be regarded as a measure unquestionably defensive.

Later on, the project for a manufacturing company with joint stock, incorporated and privileged by the State of Maryland, was very much opposed; and the doctrine that it was better to buy of Europe and India was widely spread.^c

COTTON MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS, 1800-1820.

During the twenty years, from 1800 to 1820, inclusive, there had been incorporated under existing State laws in the Southern States 42 cotton mills. Eleven of these mills were in Maryland, 3 of which

^a Bishop's History of American Manufactures.

^b Jefferson's Notes on Virginia. Mr. Jefferson subsequently changed his views on this subject. In 1816, in a letter to Benjamin Austin, of Boston, he writes: "Experience has taught me that manufactures are now as necessary to our independence as to our comfort."

^cWhite's Memoir of Slater, 1836.

manufactured cotton yarns, 1 cotton twist, and 7 piece goods, cotton checks, stripes, plaids, tickings, shirtings, and sheetings. Three mills in Virginia, 1 in North Carolina, and 3 in South Carolina spun cotton yarns. In Georgia 1 mill made cotton cloths; and in Tennessee 3 mills made shirtings, sheetings, cassinets, and other cotton fabrics, 1 cotton yarns, and 1 cotton rolls. In Kentucky there were 18 mills—13 of which made cotton yarns, 1 cotton bagging, and 4 cotton cordage, cassinets, and mixed cotton and woolen goods.^a

The returns of the Fourth Census (1820), which did not include any manufactures of a domestic or household character, give the number of spindles and pounds of cotton annually spun in each of the Southern States as follows:

Maryland, 20,245 spindles, cotton spun, 849,000 pounds; Virginia, no spindles, cotton spun, 3,000 pounds; North Carolina, 288 spindles, cotton spun, 18,000 pounds; South Carolina, 588 spindles, cotton spun, 46,449 pounds; Kentucky, 8,097 spindles, cotton spun, 360,951 pounds—total spindles, 29,218, and cotton spun, 1,277,400 pounds, or, say, 4,839 bales of 264 pounds each.^b

THE COTTON INDUSTRY FROM 1830 TO 1860.

During the thirty years from 1830 to 1860 very little is known as to the progress of the cotton industry in the Southern States. Leaving out Maryland, the census of 1840 reported 248 mills, having 180,927 spindles, no estimate being made of the amount of cotton consumed. But the report relating to this industry must have been very defective, for the number of mills in Mississippi was returned as 53, while the number of spindles given was only 318. Likewise, Alabama was reported to have 14 mills with only 1,502 spindles. There are no records showing the existence of a single mill in Mississippi equipped with then up-to-date machinery, while in Alabama there were only two such mills. Assuming, however, the correctness of the report as to the number of spindles, 180,927, the consumption of cotton at this time must have approximated 75,000 bales.

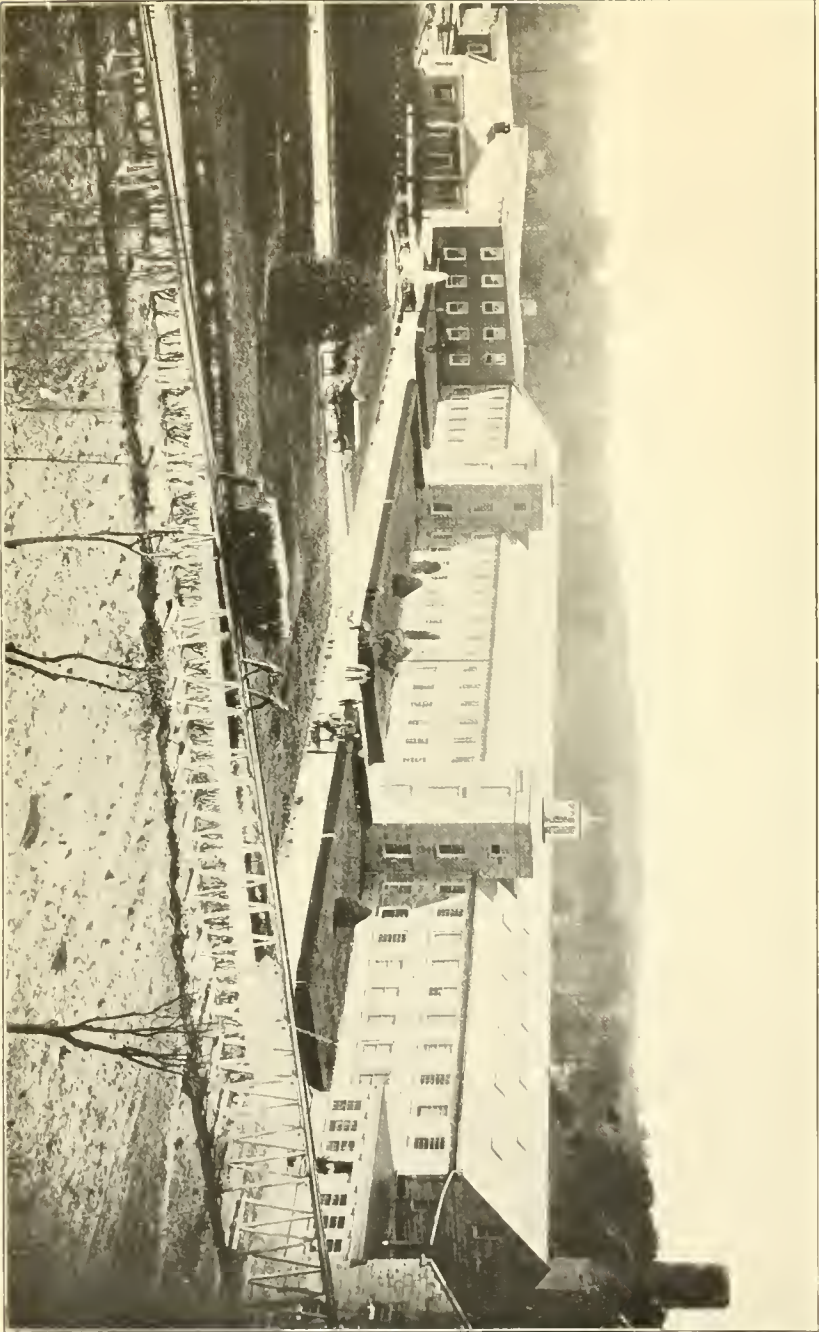
During the decade 1830–1840, about 36 cotton mills were constructed; 37 during the decade 1840–1850; and 10 during the decade 1850–1860.

THE CONSUMPTION OF COTTON IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

South Carolina is entitled not only to the distinction of ranking first among the Southern States in the manufacture of cotton, but as being the first to undertake its manufacture. It is said that the historical records of the State contain an account of the building in 1787 of a

^a Report on Manufactures, Senate Document No. 45, Eighteenth Congress.

^b The reports of this census relating to manufactures were so imperfect that an effort was made in Congress to suppress them.



GRANTVILLE COTTON FACTORY, NEAR AIKEN, S. C., FOUNDED BY WILLIAM GREGG, ESQ., 1846.

small horsepower mill on James Island, near Charleston, by Mrs. Ramage, the widow of a Carolina planter. In 1790 a factory, run by water power, was put in operation near Statesburg. In 1807 unusual interest was manifested in this branch of industry, and efforts were made to establish small factories and to introduce upon plantations the manufacture of cotton goods for negro wear and of cotton blankets. Two years later (1809) cotton goods were manufactured in Union district and cotton blankets in Prince William district. About this time "a factory for making check goods and handkerchiefs was established at Charleston, which turned out some very pretty goods."^a According to a report of the Secretary of State, in 1824, three cotton-yarn mills were incorporated under the State laws between the years 1800 and 1820, two of which were located in Greenville County and the other in Spartanburg County.

In 1829 the second cotton mill in the State, run by other than horsepower, was erected at Pendleton, and at Antun, in the same neighborhood, another such mill was built in 1838. In 1846 a mill was built at Graniteville. It was then the largest in the State and contained 8,400 spindles and 300 looms and made No. 14 yarns and 4-4 wide sheeting, 7-8 shirtings, and 7-8 twills. (Pl. LIX.)

In 1848, in addition to the above, though the date of their building is unknown, the following mills were in operation: The Saluda Cotton Factory, near Columbia, (which employed all negro operators, except a white overseer, operated 5,000 spindles and 120 looms, and made heavy brown shirtings and Southern stripes—a coarse kind of colored goods for house servants); the De Kalb, near Camden; the Vacluse, in Aiken County; the Mount Dearborn, on the Catawba River, in York County; a small mill at Society Hill, in Darlington County, and the Marlborough yarn mill^b (location not given). Two other mills were in process of construction, one of which, at Charleston, having 3,165 spindles and 100 looms, and run by steam power, was put in operation in 1849. The following year (1850) a mill was built at Arlington, in Spartanburg County. So far as the records show, no new mills were built in the State from 1851 to the beginning of the civil war.

As to the consumption of cotton in South Carolina prior to 1840 little or nothing is known. The census of 1820 reported 588 spindles in operation and consuming 46,000 pounds of cotton, but the next census (1830) made no reports upon this industry. In 1840 there were 15 mills in the State, operating 16,355 spindles and consuming approximately 6,150 bales of cotton. The progress of the industry since 1850 is shown in the table on the next page.

It was not, however, until about 1884-85 that the cotton-mill industry

^aDe Bow's Review, Vol. VIII.

^bHunt's Magazine, Vol. XVIII.

of the State began its remarkable development. The next census (1890) was a surprising revelation, showing that in ten years the number of mills had more than doubled, the number of spindles more than quadrupled, and that the amount of cotton consumed was very little short of four times as great. The progress of the industry since 1890 is even more wonderful, the number of mills having increased from 34 to 136, the number of spindles from 332,784 to 2,479,521, or 645 per cent, and the number of bales consumed from 133,342 to 587,126, or 340 per cent. It will be noticed that the per cent of the crop consumed increased from 17.8 in 1890 to 63.4 in 1902-1903.

Consumption and production of cotton in South Carolina, 1850-1903.

Year.	Number of mills.	Number of spindles.	Number of bales consumed.	Number of bales produced.	Per cent of crop used.
1849-50.....	18	36,500	9,929	300,901	3.
1850-60.....	17	30,890	8,648	353,412	2.
1860-70.....	12	34,940	10,811	224,500	4.
1874-75.....	18	70,282	19,945	360,000	5.
1879-80.....	14	82,424	33,624	522,548	6.
1884-85.....	31	217,761	77,451	511,800	15.
1889-90.....	34	332,784	133,342	747,190	17.
1890-91.....	44	415,158	164,814	859,000	19.
1891-92.....	47	467,825	183,625	780,000	23.
1892-93.....	51	503,269	200,219	635,000	31.
1893-94.....	50	569,033	215,228	650,000	33.
1894-95.....	48	619,849	229,580	862,604	26.
1895-96.....	58	802,854	257,700	764,700	33.
1896-97.....	73	1,056,198	297,782	936,463	31.
1897-98.....	76	1,205,272	398,456	1,030,085	38.
1898-99.....	80	1,285,328	466,181	1,035,414	45.
1899-1900.....	93	1,693,649	489,559	830,714	58.
1900-1901.....	115	1,908,692	501,290	743,294	67.
1901-2.....	127	2,246,926	607,906	843,660	72.
1902-3.....	136	2,479,521	587,126	925,490	63.

THE CONSUMPTION OF COTTON IN NORTH CAROLINA.

North Carolina, which now ranks second among the cotton-consuming States of the South, was the third one to engage in the manufacture of cotton, its first mill having been erected at the Falls of Tar (or Pamlico River, in Edgecombe County, in 1818. It began operating with 28 spindles, employed about 20 hands, and consumed 18,000 pounds of cotton, or, according to the weights of those days, about 64 bales. Two years after this mill began operations another was built (1822) on the Catawba River, near Lincolnton. In 1829, or about that date, a mill, run by steam power, was erected at Greensboro. It operated 3,000 spindles and 75 looms, and made sheetings, shirtings, osnaburgs and yarns.



FIG. 1.—ALAMANCE COTTON MILL, ALAMANCE COUNTY, N. C., FOUNDED BY EDWIN M. HOLT IN 1837.



FIG. 2.—LEAKSVILLE COTTON MILL, ON DAN RIVER, SPRAY, N. C., BUILT IN 1839.



FIG. 1.—CEDAR FALLS COTTON MILL, RANDOLPH COUNTY, N. C., BUILT IN 1848.



FIG. 2.—HIGH SHOALS COTTON MILL, ON APALACHEE RIVER, OCONEE COUNTY, GA., AS IT APPEARED IN 1844, BUILT BY JACOB KLUTTS.

The first of a number of mills in Cumberland County was erected at Fayetteville in 1836. The following year (1837) a mill was built at Rockingham. It was burned during the civil war and rebuilt in 1870. A mill at Cumberland and one on Alamance Creek, in Alamance County, were also erected during this year (1837). The latter, equipped with 528 spindles and 16 looms, was founded by the late Governor Edwin M. Holt, and is said to have been the first mill south of the Potomac River to manufacture colored cotton goods. (Pl. LX, fig. 1.) Besides the above, the records show 3 other mills in operation at this time—1 at Mocksville, Davis County, and 2 in Alamance County, one of which was at Haw River and the other at Cane Creek.

In 1838 the second mill was put in operation at Fayetteville, and one at each of the following places: Wittenberg, Alexander County; Lexington, Davidson County (run by steam power); High Falls, Orange County. Some time between 1838 and 1843 four more mills were erected in the vicinity of Fayetteville. The 6 mills then operating near this place were estimated to have cost \$350,000. Three of these mills manufactured stout brown sheetings, another osnaburghs weighing one-half pound to the yard, and the other two yarns only.

A mill was built in 1839 at Spray (Pl. LX, fig. 2), and in 1842 one was constructed at Cedar Falls (Pl. LXI, fig. 1). Besides the mills already enumerated, though in what year they were constructed is unknown, the following mills are said to have been in operation in 1844: The Salem Factory, in Stokes County (run by steam power); a mill at Franklinville, Randolph County; 1 at Salisbury; 1 at Concord; 1 at Milton, Caswell County; and 1 at Milledgeville, Montgomery County. It was estimated that the 25 mills in the State represented a capital of \$1,050,000, operated 50,000 spindles, employed from 1,200 to 1,500 hands, and consumed 15,000 bales of cotton.^a

In 1845 a mill was erected at Haw River, in Alamance County, and in 1848 another was built on the Yadkin River at Elkin, Surry County. The following year (1849) a mill at Saxapahaw, Alamance County, and another at Salem, Forsyth County, were put in operation; also a mill at Ramseur, 1850; 1 at Willardville, 1852; 1 at Mountain Island, 1856; and 1 at Hope Mills, 1860.

Little is known as to the consumption of cotton in North Carolina prior to 1840. According to the census returns for 1820, there were only 288 spindles in operation, which consumed 18,000 pounds of cotton. The next census (1830) made no reports upon this industry. In 1840 there were about 25 mills in the State, operating 47,934 spindles, which consumed, approximately, 20,450 bales. The progress of the industry since 1850 is illustrated in the table on the next page.

^a Hunt's Magazine, Vol. X.

Consumption and production of cotton in North Carolina, 1850-1903.

Year.	Number of mills.	Number of spindles.	Number of bales consumed.	Number of bales produced.	Per cent of crop used.
1849-50.....	28	40,000	13,617	73,845	18.4
1859-60.....	39	41,884	12,045	145,514	8.3
1869-70.....	33	39,897	9,632	144,935	6.6
1874-75.....	31	54,500	14,428	273,000	5.3
1879-80.....	49	100,209	27,642	389,598	7.1
1884-85.....	75	206,172	54,478	404,100	13.5
1889-90.....	91	337,786	114,371	336,261	34.0
1890-91.....	105	418,900	140,817	588,000	23.9
1891-92.....	112	475,733	161,052	480,000	33.6
1892-93.....	125	543,809	182,647	367,000	49.8
1893-94.....	131	538,486	176,179	400,000	44.0
1894-95.....	135	612,503	221,264	479,441	46.2
1895-96.....	133	773,030	219,822	397,752	55.3
1896-97.....	152	881,678	245,177	521,795	47.0
1897-98.....	161	919,227	334,873	646,726	51.8
1898-99.....	169	1,003,268	374,891	629,620	59.5
1899-1900.....	190	1,264,509	442,508	503,825	87.8
1900-1901.....	218	1,428,066	408,333	554,032	73.7
1901-2.....	229	1,682,272	509,486	599,668	85.0
1902-3.....	236	1,796,390	531,255	549,542	96.3

The census of 1890, as in the case of South Carolina and Georgia, gave surprising evidence of the rapid growth of the cotton industry, showing that in ten years the number of mills had increased from 49 to 91, the number of spindles from 100,209 to 337,786, and the number of bales of cotton consumed from 27,642 to 114,371. From 1890 to the present time the industry has continued in a career of remarkable development, the number of mills having increased from 91 to 236, or 158 per cent; the number of spindles from 337,786 to 1,796,390, or 432 per cent; and the number of bales of cotton consumed from 114,371 to 531,255, or 363 per cent. The per cent of the crop taken for domestic consumption has increased from 23.9 per cent in 1890-1891 to 96.3 per cent in 1902-1903.

THE CONSUMPTION OF COTTON IN GEORGIA.

Georgia, now third in importance, was second among the Southern States to begin the manufacture of cotton. As early as 1798 a cotton mill was incorporated, but there is no record to show that any organization under the charter was perfected. In 1809 there was a small horsepower mill in operation at Louisville.

But the first cotton mill of any consequence in the State was known as the "Bolton Factory," and was built in 1811, on Upton Creek, 9 miles southeast of Washington, in Wilkes County. It was 60 feet by 40, two stories, attic, and basement, and was constructed of brownstone.^a (Fig. 49.)

^aM. F. Foster, Address before New England Cotton Manufacturers' Association, 1900.

In March, 1827, the foundation of a mill, with 1,000 spindles and 30 looms, was laid at Moore's Mill, 4 miles from Athens. This was the second in the State run by other than horsepower. In 1828 four cotton mills are said to have been constructed and put in operation—1 at Augusta, 2 at Milledgeville, and 1 at Indian Springs, in Butts County. A mill was also built at Athens in 1834.

In 1837 a mill was in operation at Columbus, and in 1839 one was built at Roswell. In 1846 two mills were constructed—one at Troun Factory and the other at Waymanville.

In 1840 there were 19 cotton mills in operation in Georgia, operating 42,589 spindles and consuming approximately 18,150 bales of cotton. A cotton mill as it appeared in 1844 is shown on Pl. LXI. Prior to 1840 there are no reliable statistics of the amount of cotton consumed.

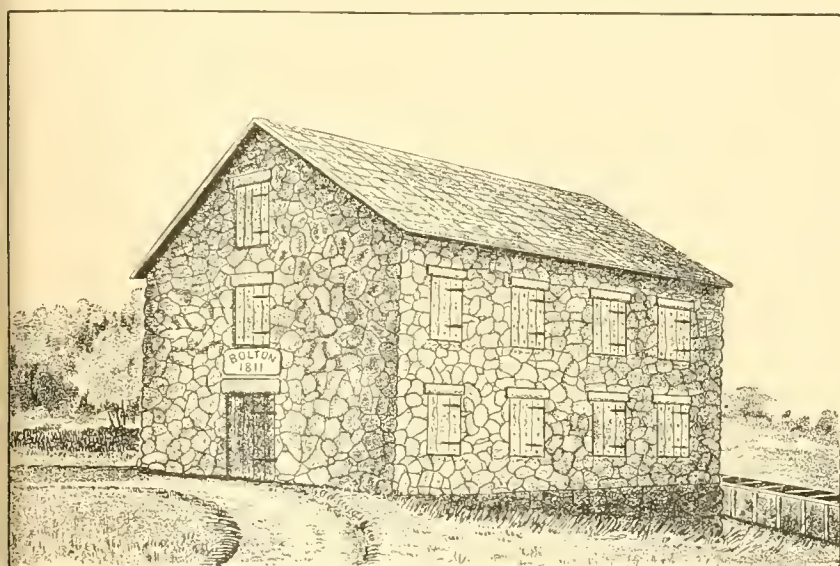


FIG. 49.—"Bolton Factory," the first cotton mill in Georgia—built on Upton Creek, Wilkes County, in 1811.

Donnell^a estimated the consumption in 1848-49 at 20,500 bales, and in 1849-50 at 27,000 bales.

In 1850 a mill was built at Jewell, in Hancock County. Three mills are said to have been in operation this year (1850) at Columbus—1 with 2,500 spindles, which manufactured heavy osnaburgs; 1 with 10,000 spindles; and 1 which contained 5,000 spindles and manufactured osnaburgs and sheetings, and consumed 1,200 bales of cotton.^b

The first of the mills which have made Augusta so prominent as a cotton manufacturing center was erected in 1858. A mill was built in 1860, at Shoal Creek, in Hart County.

^aHistory of Cotton.

^bHunt's Magazine, Vol. XXIII.

The progress of the industry since 1850 is shown in the following table:

Consumption and production of cotton in Georgia, 1850-1903.

Year.	Number of mills.	Number of spindles.	Number of bales consumed.	Number of bales produced.	Per cent of crop used.
1849-50.....	35	51,150	20,230	499,091	4.1
1859-60.....	33	85,186	30,235	701,840	4.3
1869-70.....	34	85,062	24,821	437,934	5.7
1874-75.....	47	131,340	50,214	460,000	10.9
1879-80.....	40	198,656	71,389	814,441	8.8
1884-85.....	53	349,277	99,414	807,400	12.3
1889-90.....	53	445,452	145,859	1,191,846	12.2
1890-91.....	62	465,811	164,981	1,310,000	12.6
1891-92.....	57	495,564	178,944	1,200,000	14.9
1892-93.....	59	500,408	187,702	940,000	20.0
1893-94.....	63	515,712	176,303	1,000,000	17.6
1894-95.....	61	551,806	218,685	1,247,952	17.5
1895-96.....	62	607,251	200,636	1,067,377	18.8
1896-97.....	76	683,407	227,831	1,299,340	17.5
1897-98.....	77	709,406	285,219	1,350,781	21.1
1898-99.....	79	696,394	281,527	1,378,731	20.4
1899-1900.....	86	969,364	318,302	1,345,699	23.7
1900-1901.....	107	1,016,258	356,878	1,271,573	28.1
1901-2.....	115	1,220,374	381,960	1,598,192	23.9
1902-3.....	115	1,292,695	417,871	1,425,044	29.3

THE CONSUMPTION OF COTTON IN ALABAMA.

Alabama, which ranks fourth among the Southern States as a consumer of cotton, built its first mill in 1832. It was located on the Flint River, in Madison County, 12 miles from Huntsville, was run by water power, and manufactured yarns, cottonades, ginghams, checks, and colored and plain osnaburgs. The second mill in the State was erected at Scottsville, in Bibb County. It employed 20 hands, worked 700 spindles, and was run by water power.

In answer to a circular sent out by the United States Treasury Department in 1844, making some inquiries in regard to the manufacturing, commercial, and agricultural industries, one of the replies was from a cotton mill at Tallapoosa Falls, near Tallassee, which was established about this time. It reported 30 hands, and \$30,000 invested in the mill, which returned a net profit of 15 per cent. (Pl. LXIa, fig. 1.) A cotton mill was in operation this year (1844) at Florence, and one is said to have been in operation in Morgan County, though there is some doubt of this.

In 1850, or about that time, a mill was constructed at Tuscaloosa, and the year following (1851) a factory, located on Swift Creek, in Autauga County, was put in operation. It contained 3,000 spindles and manufactured osnaburgs and No. 14 yarns. In 1854 a mill was erected at Tallassee. The following table shows the progress of the industry since 1850:



FIG. 1.—TALLASSEE FALLS COTTON MILL, AS IT APPEARED IN 1854.

[This mill is located on the Tallapoosa River in Elmore County, Ala., and was used as an armory during the civil war.]

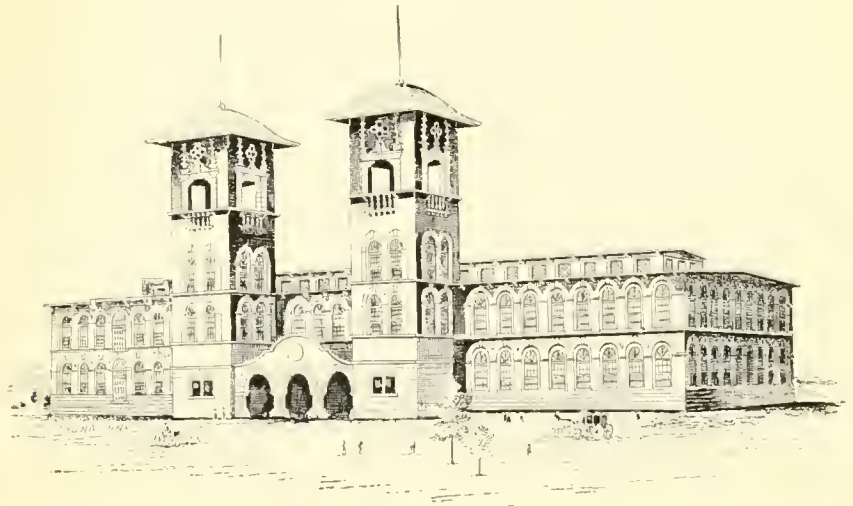


FIG. 2.—THE TEXTILE BUILDING OF THE AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE OF MISSISSIPPI.

Consumption and production of cotton in Alabama, 1850-1903.

Year.	Number of mills.	Number of spindles.	Number of bales consumed.	Number of bales produced.	Per cent of crop used.
1849-50.....	12	16,960	5,208	564,429	0.9
1859-60.....	14	35,740	11,406	989,955	1.2
1869-70.....	13	28,046	7,385	429,482	1.7
1874-75.....	14	58,480	14,561	520,000	2.8
1879-80.....	16	49,432	14,702	699,654	2.1
1884-85.....	17	69,308	18,802	648,700	2.9
1889-90.....	13	79,234	29,962	915,210	3.3
1890-91.....	17	89,158	30,364	1,011,000	3.0
1891-92.....	20	109,448	39,709	1,075,000	3.7
1892-93.....	22	129,776	41,409	740,000	5.6
1893-94.....	21	153,601	47,438	810,000	5.9
1894-95.....	23	163,460	54,972	900,439	6.1
1895-96.....	24	187,192	58,998	663,916	8.9
1896-97.....	31	215,004	68,658	833,789	8.2
1897-98.....	37	263,764	97,404	1,112,681	8.8
1898-99.....	38	353,052	121,128	1,176,042	10.3
1899-1900.....	44	437,200	154,841	1,005,313	15.4
1900-1901.....	49	550,966	157,832	1,021,845	15.4
1901-2.....	54	622,794	196,137	1,131,094	17.3
1902-3.....	54	694,386	201,303	956,215	21.1

THE CONSUMPTION OF COTTON IN TENNESSEE.

On a small scale Tennessee began the manufacture of cotton some time during the first decade of the last century, as the records show that in 1809 a horsepower mill was in operation at Nashville. A year later there are said to have been 4 small mills in operation at different places in the State, though their locations are not given. There is no evidence of the building of any cotton mills during the next seventeen years, but in 1827, or about this time, a mill in Maury County, run by water power, seems to have attracted some attention, perhaps, because of the fact that it was the first regular cotton mill established in the State, and was operated by slave labor.

At this time domestic manufactures were so extensively carried on in this part of the country that a large majority of the population were clothed in homespun, and hence there was little demand for a better grade of manufactured goods. One of the domestic spinning machines in use at this period (1828) in Tennessee, and other Southern States, and which is said to have been invented by a Tennessean, is thus described:

It was 4 feet high, 3½ feet long, and 2 feet wide. At one end there was a gin of six saws, and at the other as many spindles, with a spool on each to receive the spun yarn, and in the center were placed two cylindrical cards as near each other as possible without touching. The seed cotton being put into the gin, the handle of the machine was turned by the spinner until the spools were filled, care being taken meanwhile to mend any broken threads. A woman could spin five times as much yarn as with the common wheel and cards. The number of spindles could be increased to

any desired number, but six was most commonly in use. As the machines cost only \$20 per spindle they were within reach of all classes. General Jackson used one of them at the Hermitage, and with it clothed his family and servants.^a

Not until 1840 is there any further record of the cotton-mill industry in Tennessee. The census of that year returned 38 mills operating 16,813 spindles. The consumption was not reported, but it must have approximated 6,500 bales of cotton. The second mill in the State was built at Lebanon in 1844, but it used only a small quantity of cotton—600 bales annually. It manufactured yarns and cloth, the latter consisting of heavy white and colored jeans and linseys, Saxony tweed (made from Saxony wool grown in the State), "intended for gentlemen's wear," twilled cotton bagging, tent cloth, heavy tarpaulin, and "negro blankets." The following table shows the progress of the industry since 1850:

Consumption and production of cotton in Tennessee, 1850-1903.

Year.	Num-ber of mills.	Number of spin-dles.	Num-ber of bales con-sumed.	Number of bales pro-duced.	Per cent of crop used.	Year.	Num-ber of mills.	Number of spin-dles.	Num-ber of bales con-sumed.	Number of bales pro-duced.	Per cent of crop used.
1849-50....	33	36,000	6,111	194,532	3.3	1893-94..	22	95,219	24,807	276,000	9.0
1859-60....	30	29,850	8,854	296,464	3.0	1894-95..	22	95,866	30,914	304,981	10.1
1869-70....	28	27,923	6,528	181,842	3.6	1895-96..	30	115,743	28,732	172,560	16.7
1874-75....	40	55,381	14,443	160,000	9.0	1896-97..	28	113,119	30,746	236,781	13.0
1879-80....	16	35,736	10,436	330,621	3.2	1897-98..	29	102,834	35,773	268,635	13.3
1884-85....	28	90,793	24,427	313,800	7.8	1898-99..	29	163,366	36,358	322,820	11.3
1889-90....	20	97,524	33,114	190,579	17.4	1899-1900	32	155,997	34,882	192,263	18.1
1890-91....	23	100,235	32,226	345,000	9.3	1900-1901	33	196,761	33,305	206,015	16.2
1891-92....	22	101,534	33,759	310,095	10.9	1901-2....	32	200,976	45,240	192,922	23.4
1892-93....	23	110,485	33,370	267,576	16.1	1902-3....	32	241,078	45,385	317,149	14.3

THE CONSUMPTION OF COTTON IN VIRGINIA.

Undoubtedly Virginia began the domestic manufacture of cotton at a very early date, perhaps as early as any of the Southern States, but the records are not clear as to the date when factory manufacturing was first established. Gallatin's report shows that in 1809 a water-power mill was in operation at Petersburg.^b According to the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, made to the Senate in 1824, three cotton-spinning mills had been incorporated under the State laws, one in each of the counties of Bedford, Louisa, and Powhatan. But the census of 1820 did not return any mills in operation, and the consumption of only 3,000 pounds of cotton.

McGregor's Commercial Statistics enumerates 7 mills in operation in 1831, working 9,844 spindles and consuming 1,152,000 pounds of cotton, or, according to the weights of that period, about 3,185 bales. But when or where these mills were erected there appears to be no

^a The American Farmer, 1828.

^b Gallatin's Report on Manufactures, 1810.

record. In 1833 a site was donated and \$120,000 subscribed for the establishment of a mill at Petersburg. However, it is uncertain whether the project was a success. There is no doubt that a few years later two cotton mills were erected at Matoaca, on the north bank of the Appomattox River, about 4 miles from Petersburg. One of the mills went into operation in 1838; the other mill may have been in operation a year or two earlier, for one authority states that in 1836 two mills were erected at this place, and still another, that in 1837 "there were two mills located at Matoaca." The latter authority also states that in the same year there was a cotton mill in Richmond and one in Manchester, across the river from Richmond, both of which were "in full operation."^b

In 1840 there were 22 mills in the State, operating 42,182 spindles and consuming approximately 17,700 bales of cotton. During this year a mill was erected at Peter-sburg. The commercial authorities estimated the consumption of cotton at this time at more than 20,000 bales. The table following shows the progress of the industry since 1850:

Consumption and production of cotton in Virginia, 1850-1903.

Year.	Number of mills.	Number of spindles.	Number of bales consumed.	Number of bales produced.	Year.	Number of mills.	Number of spindles.	Number of bales consumed.	Number of bales produced.
1849-50.....	27	50,000	17,785	3,947	1893-94.....	9	106,728	27,048	12,000
1859-60.....	16	49,440	16,400	12,727	1894-95.....	10	127,408	32,383	13,414
1869-70.....	11	77,116	9,671	183	1895-96.....	12	134,425	31,070	7,964
1871-75.....	9	54,024	11,985	10,967	1896-97.....	15	139,425	39,405	11,539
1879-80.....	8	41,340	11,461	19,595	1897-98.....	15	133,497	42,880	12,873
1884-85.....	11	58,649	13,556	13,500	1898-99.....	17	137,803	44,502	13,990
1889-90.....	9	94,294	22,731	5,735	1899-1900.....	15	165,452	44,595	8,007
1890-91.....	12	87,081	21,395	7,226	1900-1901.....	15	159,532	36,462	12,318
1891-92.....	12	95,532	25,240	13,984	1901-2.....	16	157,370	40,866	14,688
1892-93.....	10	100,086	25,924	3,393	1902-3.....	17	191,546	43,331	15,614

CONSUMPTION OF COTTON IN SEVERAL COTTON STATES.

The first cotton mill in Mississippi was erected at Natchez in 1844, and the first mill in Louisiana some time prior to 1840, as the census of that year reported 2 mills in the State. The first mill in Texas was built at Huntsville, in 1860, by the State government, and the first in Arkansas, at Cave Hill, Washington County, in 1844. Missouri began manufacturing cotton between 1840 and 1850, the census of the latter year being the first official report of any mills in that State.

Kentucky, though never a large consumer of cotton, began its manufacture on a small scale early in the last century. In 1809 there were 6 small horsepower mills in operation, and in a schedule of

^a Farmer's Register, 1833.

^b Montgomery. The Cotton Manufactures of the United States.

manufacturing establishments "incorporated under State laws" from 1800 to 1820, reported by the Secretary of State to the United States Senate in 1824, is a list of 18 mills, located in 15 different counties, 13 of which made cotton yarns, 1 cotton bagging, and 4 others cotton cordage, cassinets, and mixed cotton and woolen goods. The first large mill in the State was built at Covington in 1828, at a cost of \$66,000.

The progress of cotton manufacturing in these cotton States has been slow, but with the exception of Missouri, each State shows substantial gains in recent years, and this is especially true of Mississippi, Texas, and Kentucky. The consumption of cotton in Mississippi has nearly doubled since 1890; in Texas it has increased from 3,301 to 20,713 bales, or more than 525 per cent; and in Kentucky, from a little less than 12,000 to 26,000 bales in 1900. (Pl. LXI*a*, fig. 2.)

Consumption of cotton in several cotton States, 1860-1903.

States, mills, etc.	1859-60	1869-70	1879-80	1889-90	1894-95	1899-1900	1902-3
Mississippi:							
Mills	4	5	8	9	7	10	17
Spindles.....	6,344	3,526	18,568	57,004	55,393	88,584	139,192
Bales consumed.....	1,519	1,320	6,411	17,366	15,757	21,440	31,050
Louisiana:							
Mills	2	4	2	2	4	5	6
Spindles.....	6,725	18,084	6,066	45,101	57,828	62,222	67,252
Bales consumed.....	4,339	1,707	1,358	12,223	16,429	15,695	17,320
Texas:							
Mills	1	4	2	1	5	6	15
Spindles.....	2,700	8,878	2,648	12,056	40,420	60,876	74,816
Bales consumed.....	1,278	2,448	246	3,301	12,576	16,868	20,948
Arkansas:							
Mills	2	2	2	2	2	4	2
Spindles.....	1,000	1,125	2,015	4,331	6,148	17,160	12,112
Bales consumed.....	408	151	680	1,222	2,163	2,394	2,894
Kentucky:							
Mills	6	5	3	5	5	10	8
Spindles.....	8,192	7,734	9,022	42,942	48,600	68,730	96,388
Bales consumed.....	3,970	3,602	4,050	11,980	18,018	26,008	19,884
Missouri:							
Mills	2	3	3	1	1	4	2
Spindles.....	5,000	16,715	19,312	5,492	3,500	15,744	14,916
Bales consumed.....	2,152	4,992	6,399	1,385	671	3,720	4,587

THE COTTON INDUSTRY OF THE PAST TWENTY YEARS.

Remarkable events have transpired in the cotton industrial world within the past twenty years—

The United States has increased its cotton crop nearly 5,500,000 bales, or about 96 per cent:

India's crop has increased 1,500,000 bales (of 400 pounds each), or 73 per cent:

Egypt's crop has increased 570,000 bales (of 500 pounds each), or 79 per cent:

Russia, which used to draw so largely upon this country for her raw cotton, is now supplying her mills with 200,000 to 300,000 bales grown in her trans-Caspian provinces:

Brazil has almost ceased exporting cotton, such is the home demand for her crop:

The Continent of Europe has increased its consumption of cotton 2,492,000 bales, or about 95 per cent:

In the United States the consumption of cotton in the North has increased 762,000 bales, or 59 per cent; in the South, 1,607,000 bales, or 509 per cent; and in the whole country, 2,369,000 bales, or nearly 148 per cent:

The consumption of cotton in East India has increased 1,200,000 bales, or about 200 per cent, and her mills now use about one-half of the crop produced there:

Japan has erected within her little Empire mills equipped with 1,333,000 spindles, and is consuming from 600,000 to 700,000 bales of cotton annually, nearly 25 per cent of which is American cotton:

The world's consumption of cotton has increased nearly 7,000,000 bales, or about 94 per cent:

The United States, the largest producer, has also become the largest consumer of cotton, hence the price of its staple is now regulated in the home market, and no longer in Liverpool.

But, notwithstanding the great increase in the world's consumption of cotton within twenty years, the overshadowing feature of the period is the phenomenal increase in consumption in the cotton States. This is of immense significance to the countries consuming American cotton, because every additional 10,000 bales consumed in this country means shorter time for some foreign mill, perhaps its shutting down—assuming, of course, that no further expansion of the American crop and that of other countries will take place.

The table on the next page shows that in 1850 there were 168 cotton mills in the Southern States, operating 245,810 spindles and consuming 80,300 bales of cotton. In 1860 there were 2 mills less, but an increase of 58,741 in the number of spindles and 21,388 in the number of bales consumed. The first census taken after the civil war showed 154 mills in operation, having 344,046 spindles, and consuming 83,068 bales, or only 2,768 more than were consumed in 1850. Five years later the number of mills had increased to 181, the number of spindles to 481,821, or 40 per cent, and the number of bales consumed to 145,078, or 75 per cent in five years.

In 1880 the census returns showed a decrease in the number of mills as compared with 1875, but an increase of 86,637, or 18 per cent, in the number of spindles, and 43,320, or 30 per cent, in the number of bales consumed. In 1885 the number of mills had increased to 232, the number of spindles to 1,100,432, or 94 per cent in five years, and the

number of bales consumed to 315,842, or 68 per cent in five years. By 1890 the number of mills had increased to 240, the number of spindles to 1,554,000, or 41 per cent in five years, and the number of bales consumed to 526,856, or 67 per cent in five years.

Every year since 1890 there has been an increase in the number of mills and spindles in operation, and with the single exception of 1893-94, an increase in the number of bales consumed.

Some years show astonishing developments. For instance, 44 new mills were put in operation in 1890-91, 48 in 1896-97, 23 in 1897-98, 55 in 1899-1900, 82 in 1900-1901, 43 in 1901-2, and 15 in 1902-3. In fourteen years the number of mills has increased from 240 to 640.

In 1890-91 the number of spindles increased 207,547 over the previous year; in 1895-96, 484,552; in 1896-97, 476,994; in 1899-1900, 1,167,186; in 1900-1901, 591,196; in 1901-2, 931,839; and in 1902-3, 577,670. In fourteen years the number of spindles increased from 1,554,000 to 7,100,292, or nearly 357 per cent.

The largest yearly increases in the number of bales of cotton consumed are the following amounts for the years named: In 1890-91, 79,060; 1894-95, 130,023; 1897-98, 295,683; 1899-1900, 156,918; and 1901-2, 304,346. In fourteen years the consumption increased from 526,856 to 1,925,954 bales, or about 265 per cent; while the total crop taken for domestic consumption in the cotton States has increased from 7.1 to 18.1 per cent.

Consumption and production of cotton in the Southern States, 1850-1903.

Year.	Number of mills.	Number of spindles.	Number of bales consumed.	Number of bales produced.	Per cent of crop used.
1849-50.....	165	245,810	80,300	2,469,093	3.3
1859-60.....	166	304,551	101,688	5,387,052	1.9
1869-70.....	154	344,046	83,068	3,011,994	2.8
1874-75.....	181	481,821	145,078	3,832,991	3.8
1879-80.....	163	568,458	188,398	5,755,359	3.3
1884-85 ^a	232	1,100,132	315,842	5,706,165	5.5
1889-90.....	240	1,554,000	526,856	7,472,511	7.1
1890-91.....	284	1,761,547	605,916	8,652,597	7.0
1891-92.....	293	1,938,524	681,471	9,035,379	7.5
1892-93.....	315	2,088,697	733,701	6,700,365	11.0
1893-94.....	322	2,171,342	723,329	7,549,817	9.6
1894-95.....	323	2,382,781	853,352	9,901,251	8.6
1895-96.....	354	2,867,333	857,835	7,161,094	12.0
1896-97.....	402	3,344,327	981,991	8,532,705	11.5
1897-98.....	425	3,574,754	1,277,674	10,897,857	11.7
1898-99.....	444	3,832,401	1,413,891	11,189,205	12.6
1899-1900.....	499	4,999,587	1,570,812	9,142,838	17.2
1900-1901.....	581	5,590,783	1,576,786	10,401,453	15.2
1901-2.....	624	6,522,622	1,881,132	10,663,224	17.6
1902-3.....	640	7,100,292	1,925,954	10,630,945	18.1

^aThe numbers for spindles and mills are for the year 1886.

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